

REMARKS

Claim 22 is amended. Claims 22-34 are pending in the application.

An objection is presented against the Abstract. The Abstract is amended and overcomes the objection. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection in the next Office Action.

Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 32 depends from dependent claim 31. Respectfully, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to Fig. 3 which show pins (60) extending upwardly from beneath the panel (132, 134 and 136) to beyond an upper surface of the panel wherein the pins do not extend through the panel as recited in claims 31 and 32. Accordingly, the §112 rejection against claim 32 is inappropriate and should be withdrawn.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kleine et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,905,100). Claims 22 and 31-33 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Martin (U.S. Patent No. 154,694).

The PTO and Federal Circuit provide that §102 anticipation requires that each and every element of the claimed invention be disclosed in a single prior art reference. *In re Spada*, 911 F.2d 705, 15 USPQ2d 1655 (Fed. Cir. 1990). The corollary of this rule is that the absence from a cited §102 reference of any claimed element negates the anticipation. *Kloster Speedsteel AB, et al. v. Crucible, Inc., et al.*, 793 F.2d 1565, 230 USPQ 81 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Claims 22 recites a panel and plurality of blocks over the panel, the blocks having curved upper surfaces. In no fair interpretation could Martin or Kleine suggest or teach the blocks having curved upper surfaces as recited in claim 22. Accordingly, Martin, Kleine and the art of record fail to teach, singularly or in any combination, a positively recited limitation of claim 22. For at least this reason, claim 22 is allowable. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 22 in the next Office Action.

Claims 23-34 depend from independent claim 22, and therefore, are allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claim, as well as for their own recited features which are neither shown or taught by the art of record.

Claim 34 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Martin. Claim 34 depends from dependent claim 33 which recites an actuator beneath the panel. Page 3 of the Office Action (Paper No. 7) identifies teachings of Martin that allegedly correspond to limitations of claim 34, such as, element J allegedly teaches an actuator and element A allegedly teaches a panel. Martin presents teachings to element J as:

on each edge of the said board [A] a metal strip, J, the lower edge of which rests on the lower board [D] (Col. 2, paragraph 3).

In no fair interpretation of the Martin teachings could the metal strip J be reasonably argued to disclose an actuator beneath the panel (allegedly element A of Martin). Accordingly, Martin and the art of record fail to teach, singularly


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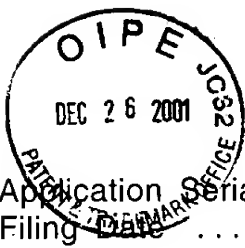
or in any combination, a positively recited limitation of claim 34. For at least this reason, claim 34 is allowable. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 34 in the next Office Action.

This application is now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview prior to issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

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Application Serial No. 09/687,600
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Examiner S. Choi
Attorney's Docket No. MI22-1550
Title: Integrated Circuit Package Separators

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE ACCOMPANYING
RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 25, 2001 OFFICE ACTION

In the Specification

The replacement specification paragraphs incorporate the following amendments. Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

Replace the Abstract with:

~~In one aspect, the invention includes a method of forming integrated circuit packages.~~ A base having a plurality of pins extending upwardly therefrom is provided. A support is provided over the base. The support has an upper surface and a plurality of holes extending therethrough. The pins extend through the holes and upwardly beyond the upper surface of the support. An actuator is provided beneath the support. A board having a plurality of integrated circuits bonded thereto is provided. The integrated circuits form a repeating pattern of integrated circuit packages across the board, and the board has a plurality of holes extending through it. The board is placed over the support upper surface

with the pins extending into the holes in the board. While the board is over the support upper surface, it is cut to separate the integrated circuit packages from one another. ~~After the cutting, the support is vertically displaced by the actuator to lift the support off the pins.~~

~~In another aspect, the invention encompasses an integrated circuit package separator for separating integrated circuit packages from a board.~~

In the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows. Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

22. (Amended) An integrated circuit package separator for separating a plurality of integrated circuit packages from one another, the integrated circuit packages being provided as integrated circuit chip components joined to a board, the separating including cutting the board, the separator comprising:

a panel;

a plurality of blocks over the panel, the blocks having curved upper surfaces and being configured to support the board while leaving the integrated circuit chip components extending between the block upper surfaces and the panel; and

a cutting mechanism configured to cut the board while the board is supported on the blocks and to thereby separate the integrated circuit packages from one another.

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